The Lions' Pride

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SLU Theatre Spreads Good Vibrations

By John Hall
Layout Editor

The aesthetic of a Star Trek episode, coupled with the drama of a soap opera, encapsulated by the beautiful sounds of a Broadway musical, can all be found in the most recent production by the Theatre Program of Saint Leo University. The production, "Return to the Forbidden Planet" is the latest in the litany of stage performances under the theatre department's repertoire. Representing only the second play this academic year, the team, under the direction of Rebekah Lane, has outdone previous year's performances with strong stage performances, emotion- drawing music, and effective use of space.

Lane who has been with Saint Leo for just about a year said of the group, "The students in the Saint Leo Theatre program are full of enthusiasm and potential. It's incredible how much energy they have! It has been especially exciting to watch them discover their characters, because once they start to feel confident in a direction, they start to make surprising and interesting choices. It's especially wonderful to see how the group bands together to support each other and the show. The theatrical rehearsal process takes a lot of time, and this group of students made a strong effort to maintain their commitments."

Photos by John Hall

Audience participation is a key aspect of the show. The helpful and plucky Damage Control Crew ensure that the audience members are ready for a pleasant flight and are aware of all of the important emergency procedures.

Dr. Prospero, portrayed by John Feiler, maroons Captain Tempest and his crew on the planet D'Ilyria.

The play is based loosely on Shakespeare's piece The Tempest and the 1956 sci-fi film, "The Forbidden Planet." A dense layer of defamiliarization engulfs this production as the play sheaths familiar themes of love, power based corruption, and hubris into an act for the ages.

As always, the Theatre Program has amalgamated students at different academic levels and diverse levels of experiences which have proven to be a source of strength for the department. Sports business major and junior Vincent Pensabene, portrays the lead role in the production as Captain Tempest who we learn to be a man of intense emotions.

Pensabene brings the character to life through his tall stature and deep commitment to the role and lends to the character an insurmountable personality. As the leader of the crew, Tempest's responsibility is to all crew members, providing counsel, affirmation, and direction. The beauty of this production is derived even more as colorful characters are added into the mix, who include Emily Kochanski (Science Officer), John Feiler (Dr. Prospero), Katie Huettel (Miranda), Alexa Klein (Ariel), and Anthony Fontana (Cookie) to name a few.

Each character has a personality within their character arc, supplemented by the individual actors that enhance the grandeur of this mosaic.

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A Beautiful Night at the Opera

By Allison Cobb
Distribution Manager

"The Phantom of the Opera" is a timeless, romantic, and haunting musical that almost everyone has heard of before. On Feb. 22, Saint Leo hosted its biannual trip to the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa, treating students to an evening showing of the thrilling production. This latest adaptation of "Phantom" featured both traditional opera singing and contemporary musical singing, as well as beautiful ballet.

Overall, the show was a well put together version of the well-known story. Some students had prior knowledge of "The Phantom of the Opera" while others went in blind, but it was an understandable story with or without the previous knowledge. The story was cohesive, the set design was amazing, and the dancing was beautiful to watch.

"The Phantom of the Opera" is about the slow abduction of a young girl who meets a man teaching her how to sing in his opera. He sends instructions to the manager of the theatre in favor of allowing the girl, Christine, to sing and be the star of the show. He forces them to leave Box Office Five empty for his viewing of the shows and threatens severe consequences if they rebel

Continued on Page 3.

Photos by Madison Whatley

"The Phantom of the Opera" is a timeless romantic tale firts written as a novel by Gaton Leroux. It has been adapted numerous times for stage and screen and even spawned spin-off and parody novels and even a musical sequel.

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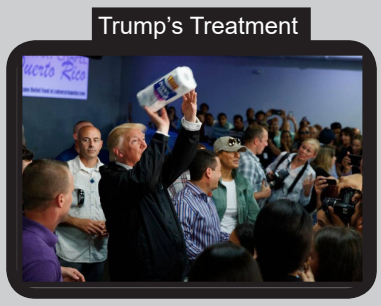

Everythings Suck T.V. Show

This Week Online:
The Cloverfield Paradox Movie Review & More

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Editorial

How the Florida Gun Control Vote Failed

Travis Farmer
Editorial Editor

How can the government of a state with two of the most violent shootings in modern history vote down gun control legislation? Many have been asking this exact question after the Florida state legislature's vote on Tuesday, Feb. 20. With thousands of protestors and activists rallying outside of the Capitol, lawmakers denied to even discuss or debate a motion to ban the sale of assault weapons with a vote of 71-36.

The bill would have banned large capacity magazines and rebranded "military style" weapons to "assault weapons." This vote was done in less than three minutes, and in the same session, members of the House went on to declare pornography a public health risk. That's right, six days after 17 children were killed in a mass shooting, Florida House members decided that pornography was the hill to die on.

How did this happen, though? How can 71 members of the House refuse to even discuss gun control? One of the answers to this question is donations from the NRA and other lobbying groups.

The National Rifle Association is an American non-profit organization determined to keep gun rights and the Second Amendment intact. The NRA is regularly viewed as one of the top three largest lobbying groups in Washington, DC. Lobbying is the act of giving donations and money to politicians to ensure that they vote in a way that benefits the organization. The NRA has used this lobbying power to keep gun rights intact for decades and doesn't intend to stop anytime soon.

For example, the NRA gave almost $60 million to influence the success of various politicians in 2016. This money was to ensure that those politicians voted in favor of the NRA's agenda on any gun related bills or legislation. As another example, Republican Representative Ron DeSantis of Florida's 6th congressional district received a whopping $19,000 donation from the NRA in 2016, and as such, is a strict advocate on gun control rights.

Not only does the NRA use its money to influence politicians, but it also does so to the supporters and members of the organization. If a conservative or liberal were to do something against the NRA's agenda, they are quick to make their supporters aware of who not to vote for in whatever election is up next. When a large amount of your voting base supports the NRA, this makes politicians afraid for their chances for reelection and losing their base.

This is the way that most of the NRA's influence in Florida can be felt. The NRA does not give much in way of donations to local House elections; however, it does give a score to each candidate running as well as candidates in office. For example, the NRA gave Representative Larry Ahern an "A" score. This tells the NRA's members and advocates to vote for Ahern, and in turn, he will vote "no" on future gun control legislation.

Perhaps these donations and this political swing are why the vote failed, with all 71 conservative representatives having voted "no" and all 36 liberal representatives having voted "yes." However, it is important to remember that conservatives are not the only ones to blame in this failure, as liberals failed in a big procedural way. Following the shooting, house Democrats pushed a vote on a gun control bill through. This bill had been sitting on the floor since November 2017, but the fast lane for the bill may have helped lead to its downfall. Democratic Representative Jared Moskowitz of the Florida House ripped his Democratic colleagues to shreds over their play of these "procedural games." Moskowitz is a 1999 Stoneman Douglas High School graduate and was attending one of the student victim's funerals at the time of the vote. Moscowitz criticized his fellow Democrats, stating, "The decision to make a procedural motion to bring HB 219 to the floor was brought up with zero notice. The majority of Democratic members of our caucus were not aware that any motion would be made, and several were not present on the floor."

"Procedural games will not make policy. Only members from both parties working together on legislation will bring the gun safety changes we need to prevent this from ever happening again," continued Moskowitz.

Moskowitz's statement is very important, and something that everyone needs to read right now. It is all too easy to see lawmaking and politics as a sport, with an "us versus them" mentality, or as adversarial like a football game. Issues such as abortion, gun control, immigration, gay marriage, and medical marijuana are all deeply divisive subjects where it comes down purely to left versus right. However, in times of crisis, it is important to see that these party lines need to be thrown out, and good legislation needs to be created and implemented to save lives.

Lawmakers and politicians need to stop paying attention to the scoreboard, their donation numbers, and their chance of reelection and instead recognize the tragedies that continue to happen in the nation and put a stop to them.

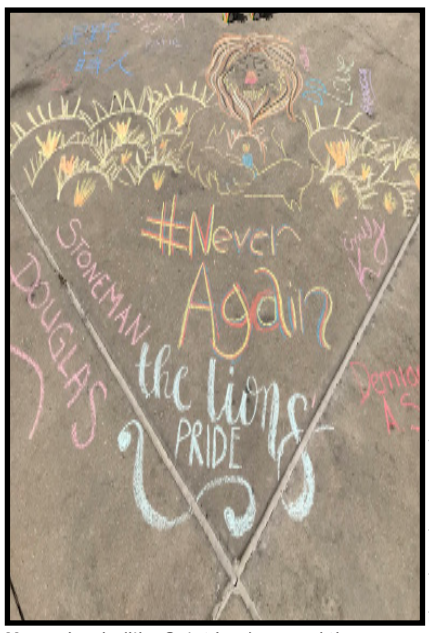

Photo by Wakens Leonard

Many shools (like Saint Leo) around the country have showed solidarity with the victims.

Governor Rick Scott's Plan

Governor Rick Scott proposed a plan Friday, Feb. 23, to help prevent or mitigate school shootings in the future. This plan would cost five-hundred million dollars, and would include:

-Putting a law enforcement officer in every school, and one officer for every 1,000 students.

-Safety plans leading to metal detectors, bulletproof glass, and steel doors.

-More mental health counselors specifically for mental health, not also as advisors.

-A department of children and families caseworker assigned to all 67 Florida counties.

-A law requiring buyers to be 21 to purchase all firearms.

-Gun purchase restrictions for people with mental health history.

-Bump stock and modification ban.

-Mandatory active shooter drills.

-New hotline, website, and phone app dedicated to "see something, say something."

-No specific firearm ban and no guns being given to teachers, like President Trump is pushing for.

As Scott said in his address: "there is nothing more important than to do all we can to make sure a horrific and evil act like the Parkland shooting never happens again."

It has yet to be seen if this helps prevent tragedies, but it is still better to do something than nothing at all.

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

The Stoneman Douglas shooting has unleashed a new generation of teenagers and students standing up for what they believe in, with protests across the country.

Campus News

Good Vibrations Cont'd

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Strengthening the group's melodic performance was a small musical ensemble which included Inna Karotkevich whose keyboard accompaniment continued to swell the hearts of the crowd. This added another layer to performances as tension, excitement, and a few sound effects were added to the mix.

Sophomore and biology/ biomedical science major, Shannon Lynch, was enthralled with her first experience at Blackbox Theatre. Lynch stated, "This was an awesome experience, I didn't expect the acting to be so good, and the music was amazing."

Classical compositions of songs were played with an extra flare relative to the material of the dramaturgy which included "Shake Rattle and Roll," "It's a man's world," and the crowds favorite, "Great Balls of Fire." The range of Saint Leo's students underscores the sheer talent being harnessed and cultivated in the theatre department.

The hubris of Dr. Prospero, the curiosity of Miranda, and the wanton heart of Cookie reflected the innate image of the audience as several of them could be heard whispering personal experiences during the intermission.

When questioned about the process leading up to Showtime Lane said, "We began rehearsals for "Return to the Forbidden Planet" during the last week of the fall semester. We met, handed out scripts and music, and discussed the show.

Over the winter break, students learned lines and music independently. On Jan 12h we began our weekly rehearsals. We worked on this show 5 days each week for 5 weeks. In each rehearsal we worked on singing, dance moves, and character development.

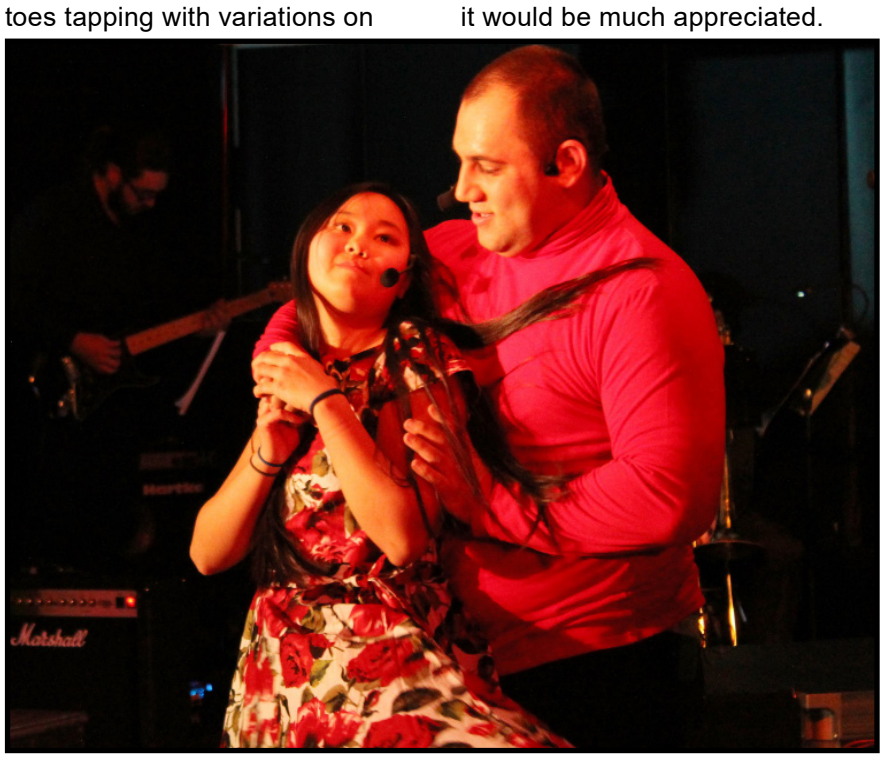
The cast and support team have shown themselves as a viable source of entertainment and inspiration to the Saint Leo community through their renditions.

Lane encourages audiences, "This play is an exciting, multi-media, science fiction adventure. If you are familiar with Shakespeare, you will appreciate the ridiculous mis-quotes and references. If you are a fan of old science fiction movies, you will appreciate the style of the show and the video sprinkled throughout the performance. If you enjoy rock tunes from the 50's and 60's, this Jukebox musical will keep your toes tapping with variations on classics including "Great Balls of Fire" and "Teenager in Love," all supported by a live, on-stage band."

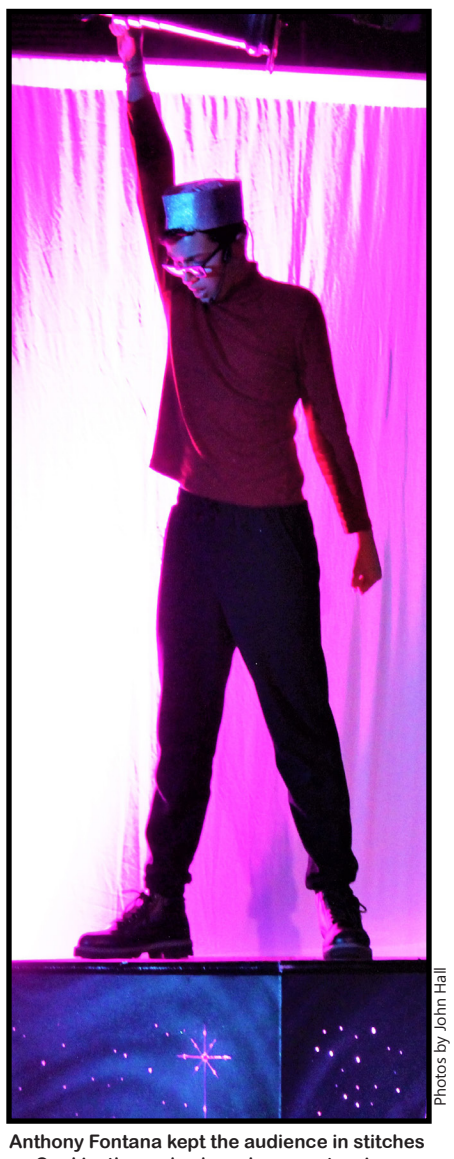
There are still multiple opportunities to enjoy the production which will continue March 2 at 7:30 p.m., March 3 at 2p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and March 4 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free to the event however if you would like to give a donation to the program it would be much appreciated.

Photos by John Hall

The play explores themes of love, wanderlust, and honor which are laced with comedic fourth wall breaks and thematic music.



Prospero's innocent daughter, Miranda (Katie Huettel) falls head over heels for the strapping Captain Tempest.



Photos by John Hall

Anthony Fontana kept the audience in stitches as Cookie, the underdog who vows to win Miranda's love.

Opera Cont'd

Continued from Page 1

against him.

Christine, although at first enthralled with the Phantom and what he can teach her, eventually wants to escape from him as she realizes more about his secrets. Her lover encourages her to escape and is a huge factor in this decision. As the Phantom realizes he's losing Christine, he begins to wreak more and more havoc in the opera which creates a thrilling and heartbreaking climax at the end of the play.

The stagecraft was something to be admired. The set consisted of a giant room on a rotating circle, with walls that opened up to whichever set they needed for the current scene. Each room and the use of mist and fire for different dramatic moments were artfully done. "The Phantom of the Opera" didn't win a Tony for best set design for nothing.

Ballet was another part of the show that wasn't quite the main focus but served as a great visual addition to the singing and acting. They used it both as a background and as a filler.

It seemed as though the general census from the students who attended was positive. Jennifer Fields, a junior criminal justice major, was absolutely enchanted by the performance.

"'The Phantom of the Opera' at the Straz Center was delightfully macabre," said Fields. "The chandelier was its own character as it loomed above the audience. The pyrotechnics added excitement that could only be topped by the sound of the vibrato in Carlotta's and Christine's voices. It had everything you could possibly want romance, murder, and ballet. All in all, my friends and I had a 'Wicked' good time."

Last semester, Saint Leo University had another trip to the Straz to see "RENT." In the past, students have also gone to see "Wicked" and other well-known Broadway gems. These trips to see famous plays are a great way for students to experience the arts and is a great change of pace from other kinds of outings like theme parks and sports events.

Overall, "The Phantom of the Opera" is a beautiful and emotional show that students, both die-hard fans and first-time viewers, enjoyed attending.

National

Puerto Rican Students' Thoughts on Hurricane Aid

Randawnique Coakley
Managing Editor &
Worldly News Editor

Photo from @MiamiHerald

Besides throwing paper towels to Puerto Ricans, during his visit to Puerto Rico following the hurrcanes, Trump also joked about Puerto Rico's debt affecting the federal budget and compared damages sustained by Hurrcane Maria for Puerto Rico to that of Hurricane Katrina for New Orleans, in attempts to minimize the effect of the hurricanes, such as death toll of Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico was hit by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September of last year. However, the effects of the hurricane are still evident due to loss of power and damage to nature and infrastructure, which is still looming over the island. The experience of Puerto Ricans was exacerbated due to the slow arrival of aid, federal aid in particular.

In fact, a bill that the House passed for $36.5 billion, with only $1.27 billion of food assistance for Puerto Rico, was approved more than a month after Hurricane Maria hit, according to the Hill. On the other hand, the Senate approved $15 billion in hurricane relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, only a week after the hurricane hit. The $ 36.5 billion bill included funds, which was the second allotment for Texas, Florida, and other southern states that were affected by storms. However, the bill was the first allotment for Puerto Rico, as reported to LA Times.

Alejandro Maldonado, who is a freshman majoring in business management, confirmed that Puerto Rico got aid slower than other states that were affected by the hurricanes, indicating how the territory of Puerto Rico is treated compared to the states of the country.

"I think, in my opinion, help came a little bit slow, comparing to the hurricane Irma from Florida and Texas, Hurricane Harvey," said Maldonado. "[Help] took time to arrive; and it was weird, comparing to Texas and comparing to Florida. It took a lot of time because the hurricane Harvey and Irma when it happened here in the States, you could already see help on the next two or three days; we were almost five or six days with nobody getting to the island; that affected us."

The idea that aid was slow also is connected with Trump's attitude and demeanor upon his arrival on the island after the hurricanes hit.

Trump visited Puerto Rico about a week and a half following Hurricane Maria but only stayed for several hours. Many Puerto Ricans formed a negative opinion of his visit, feeling that his visit was uneventful and considering Trump as disrespectful on his trip to the island.

"So basically, the US government hasn't done much in my opinion. And I know that I'm not the other Puerto Rican that feels this. He basically went to Puerto Rico two weeks after the hurricanes happened and instead of bringing just like food and giving it to people like an actual leader, he is just throwing paper towels at people, and it's kind of disrespectful because honestly, paper towels was not an important supply at the moment. There were not water, like fresh water, there was no food," said Natalia Figueroa, who is a junior majoring in english/professional writing.

Photo from @NewsUSAPolitics

Puerto Rico's governor, Ricardo Rossello, announced on Feb. 22 he seeked for a more in depth independent review of death toll of Puerto Rican, which was orginally reported as rough 60 but was speculated to be in the 1,000 in months following the hurricane.

Maria Jose Figueroa Miletta, a freshman majoring in business management, described Trump's actions more in-depth.

"In my opinion, when he came to Puerto Rico after the second week of it, he only went to Puerto Rico for like five hours," said Miletta. "He went up on the stage, and he started throwing paper towels to us Puerto Ricans, like if we were animals. For me, it was very disrespectful. And also for him, because he is the president of the United States, like either way, we are part of the mainland."

Miletta thinks that Trump could have done more. She thought FEMA could have done a bit more since they got there later. However, she mentioned that FEMA did help as they provided a lot of food and water; nonetheless, the food that they were given resulted in a lot of issues for the people of Puerto Rico because it was junk food and canned food that have a lot of sodium and sugar, according to PRI.org.

"In the moment, it was perfect because we didn't have anything else, but later on you can see the consequences of it; a lot of people are now suffering of that."

Figueroa also mentioned San Juan's mayor, Carmen Yulín Cruz, and her lack of help in the aftermath of the hurricane.

When she was at Saint Leo during the semester, Figueroa said that from the outside looking in and from social media, Cruz seemed as though she was helping everyone, given that she was asking for federal help and calling out Trump for his actions. However, when Figueroa got to Puerto Rico, she heard from locals that the mayor was not doing such an amazing job as it was depicted on social media. Figueroa then concluded that the mayor abandoned her constituents, rather than getting the necessary aide for them. All of this appeared to have been done to fight Trump in Washington, as opposed to staying closer to the ground. She also mentioned that the mayor wasn't paying for policemen. In fact, there were reports that policemen were not being paid overtime, so many of the police officers during the Christmas and New Year's holidays called in sick, which resulted in a deficiency of police patrol on the island.

Another point of contention was the island's debt, which took the spotlight in the aftermath of the hurricane. The crippling $74 billion debt had appeared to be another major source of the nation's suffering.

"The few past governors they didn't know how to manage the money … but I think that this governor right now has done an absolute good job; he has been on top of everything," said Maldonado.

Francisco Ortiz Fullana, a freshman majoring in business management, also suggested that the previous governors mismanaged the money. He suggested that there could have been an investment in sustainability efforts, such as hydroelectricity or desalination; however, instead, the previous governors diverted most of their money on hotels, as Fullana mentioned.

"Through the years, the

National

governors were horrible with managing the money, trying to make hotels everywhere in San Juan. It's unnecessary, instead of doing water plants and electricity powered by water or plants to turn salt water to drinking water. Instead of doing that they were just doing hotels, and that's what really gave us debt," said Fullana.

Despite past governors' mismanagement, some of the Puerto Rican students still have high hopes in the current governor, Ricardo Rossello, to perform well, as Maldonado mentioned.

Fullana mentioned that he was unsure of the current governor but has come around to him and believes that he is doing a good job with managing the money.

"He helped us a lot. I was pretty skeptical about our governor, but I mean, he came through," said Fullana.

Also, Figueroa thinks that the efforts of the governors in the past have not been good, so, she thinks that actions of these governors have led to an accumulation of the debt. She also agrees that the United States can help but it depends on the government in Puerto Rico, and if they aren't doing anything, the island won't get out of the debt.

When asked about the debt, Miletta mentioned the issue that Puerto Rico has with dependency and how this political issue transcended into a bigger scale.

"There are a lot of political issues in Puerto Rico because there's people who want to be a part of the United States to be 51 states," said Miletta. "As Puerto Rico, we never been alone in that sort of way; we always been part of something. In the first years, we were a part of Spain, and now we are a part of the United States like we never been taught to be alone; and a lot of people are fighting for that also, to be independent. And the debt, I think that it is corruption in some kind of way."

She thinks that the previous governors have led Puerto Rico to debt. However, she commended the current governor for handling the hurricanes well. In fact, Miletta thinks that the governor did a great job, especially with the state of emergency call before the hurricane to ensure that people in houses that aren't suitable for hurricanes, like wooden houses, to seek shelter.

Even though there was some trouble with federal assistance in Puerto Rico, there was assistance given to Puerto Rican students on campus. The administration set up tuition assistance, which is essentially an emergency scholarship fund that gives students, whose families were in the path of the storm, a discounted tuition fee in the Spring semester of $8,500, according to Saint Leo University Press Release. Also, professors and success coaches were checking on students to ensure that they were doing well.

"My success coach was always checking up on me through email, seeing how I was doing," said Fullana. "He one time told me to go to his office in case I was having a breakdown. He was really helpful."

Figueroa also received help from her professors, who were understanding during the time following the hurricane. They wanted her to get better and was there to offer any help she needed.

"For me, it was mostly my professors. All of them were super understanding. All of them helped, they reached out to me … because it was really a bad semester for me because I had trouble understanding the fact that the Puerto Rico I left in August wasn't basically the same," said Figueroa. "My student success coach also helped. I talked to her like the first few weeks after the hurricane. She was very understanding. She helped me like cope with the loss that Hurricane Maria left. And my friends also were very supportive."

Additionally, Figueroa received hurricane relief assistance, a need-based scholarship offered by the school. She is perpetually thankful to faculty and staff of Saint Leo for all they did during her time of need.

Maldonado's student success coach was really helpful for him; he mentioned that she was concerned with his wellbeing.

He also applied for tuition assistance last semester, however without the FEMA documentation that was not available at the time, he is uncertain as to whether he would have gotten the assistance.

To read more on these student's experiences and their families' in the aftermath of the storm, look on our website for the first part of the article, titled "Puerto Rican Students Managing After Hurricanes."

To view the video of these Puerto Rican Students explaining their experiences, visit our Youtube Page:
The Lions' Pride Newspaper

Kidney Cancer Awareness

Shantae Whyte
Contributing Writer

March is kidney cancer awareness month. This is the twelfth most common cancer in the world, along with pancreatic cancer. Here are some facts to get you started on kidney cancer awareness:

These bean-shaped organs are found in the upper back-abdomen of both males and females, so both genders are at risk of contracting this disease. Kidney cancer develops when cells in the kidney begin to grow out of control. As a vital member of the excretory system, it is responsible primarily for cleansing the blood from impurities, such as waste products and excess water and salt. The kidneys also help to control blood pressure and more.

According to the American Cancer Society, causes of kidney cancer include smoking, obesity, family history of kidney (renal) cancer, and certain medicines (phenacetin and diuretics). There are multiple types of kidney cancer; according to American Cancer Society, the most common type is renal cell carcinoma, also known as renal cell cancer or renal cell adenocarcinoma. About nine out of every 10 cancers are renal cell carcinomas; of these cases, seven out of 10 people have this kind of cancer. Other kinds of renal cell carcinoma include clear cell renal carcinoma, papillary renal carcinoma, and chromophobe renal cell carcinoma. The very rare (1 percent chance) types include collecting duct RCC, multilocular cystic RCC, and medullary carcinoma. The World Cancer Research Fund International collected data from up to 2012, which found that the U.S. is positioned at No. 4 on the list of top countries with kidney cancer, with the Czech Republic topping the list for both sexes.

The American Cancer Society has stated that people mainly at risk are African Americans and American Indians/Alaska Natives and persons with genetic and hereditary risk factors, such as Von Hippel-Lindau disease, Cowden Syndrome, Birt-HoggDube (BHD) syndrome, and renal diseases. Also, persons between the ages of 50 and 70 are at a higher risk of developing the disease, as well. Men are more than three times likely to be diagnosed with kidney cancer than women, as reported by Cancer.net.

Photo from @DawneGeeWAVE3

The colour that signifies kidney cancer awareness is orange.

According to Healthline.com, the first sign of kidney cancer is blood in the urine, as it is the main symptom. Other signs include pain in the side or lower back and feeling a mass on your abdomen, side, or lower back. Several symptoms of kidney cancer, according to WebMD, include an ongoing pain in your side, unreasonable weight loss, anemia, urine in blood, lump in the side, and extreme fatigue. As reported by the Cancer Centre Statistics persons living with kidney cancer for half a year to one year have a 70 to 49 percent chance of surviving. Meanwhile, if a person has it for over two years, the survival rate slims to less than 30 percent and decreases to the least 10 percent at a minimum of five years. Scientists are continuously looking for new ways to improve kidney cancer treatments. Several targeted therapies have been adopted to treatments, such as immunotherapy (the most responsive), and drug use surgery, which can be preceded by neoadjuvant therapy.

Arts & Entertainment

"Here and Now" a Contemporary Mess

By Kristin L. Vitagliano
Contributing Writer

For those complaining about the lack of diversity in television, HBO has the solution. On Sunday, Feb. 11, at 9 p.m., HBO aired their new show "Here and Now"; it follows a multicultural family as they experience life.

The show begins with a bunch of random images and clips; they are things that don't make sense put together as they are. Then, Ramon (Daniel Zovatto) wakes up, and viewers learn the images were but a dream. It was a very weird dream, but through it, the audience learns a clue as to what is to come into his future.

Viewers travel with him to a coffee shop where they meet the love interest Henry (Andy Bean). This same coffee shop is where Ramon's gaze is drawn to the clock on the wall as it reads 11:11. To him, it seems like an odd coincidence, but as he continues his day, he sees 11:11 again and again and seems to be another clue as to what is wrong.

Ramon isn't the only main character of the show, however. The story quickly moves from each of his family members as viewers get introduced to this odd-looking family. The audience gets introduced to his adopted mother Audrey (Holly Hunter) and Audrey's only biological child Kristen (Sosie Bacon); they are shopping for party decorations for the father. The father Greg (Tim Robbins) is a philosophy teacher and turning 60 years old, much to his disappointment. Ramon was adopted from Columbia.

Viewers also meet Ramon and Kristen's other adopted siblings. Duc (Raymond Lee) is a psychologist; the eldest of the siblings, he was adopted from Vietnam. Ashley (Jerrika Hinton) is a fashion expert and was adopted from Somalia. Viewers also get to meet Ashley's husband Malcom (Joe Williamson) and their cute little daughter Hailey (Avynn Crowder Jones).

All the characters gather at their parent's house where viewers learn Kristen only wants to grow up and be seen as more than the 17-year-old white chick of the family. Duc just wants his father's attention. Ashley wants a little freedom from her responsibilities as a mother and wife. Moreover, Ramon is going a bit mad over another appearance of 11:11 floating in the fire of candles. Their father is majorly depressed, and mom just wants to keep control of what little she still has control of in her life.

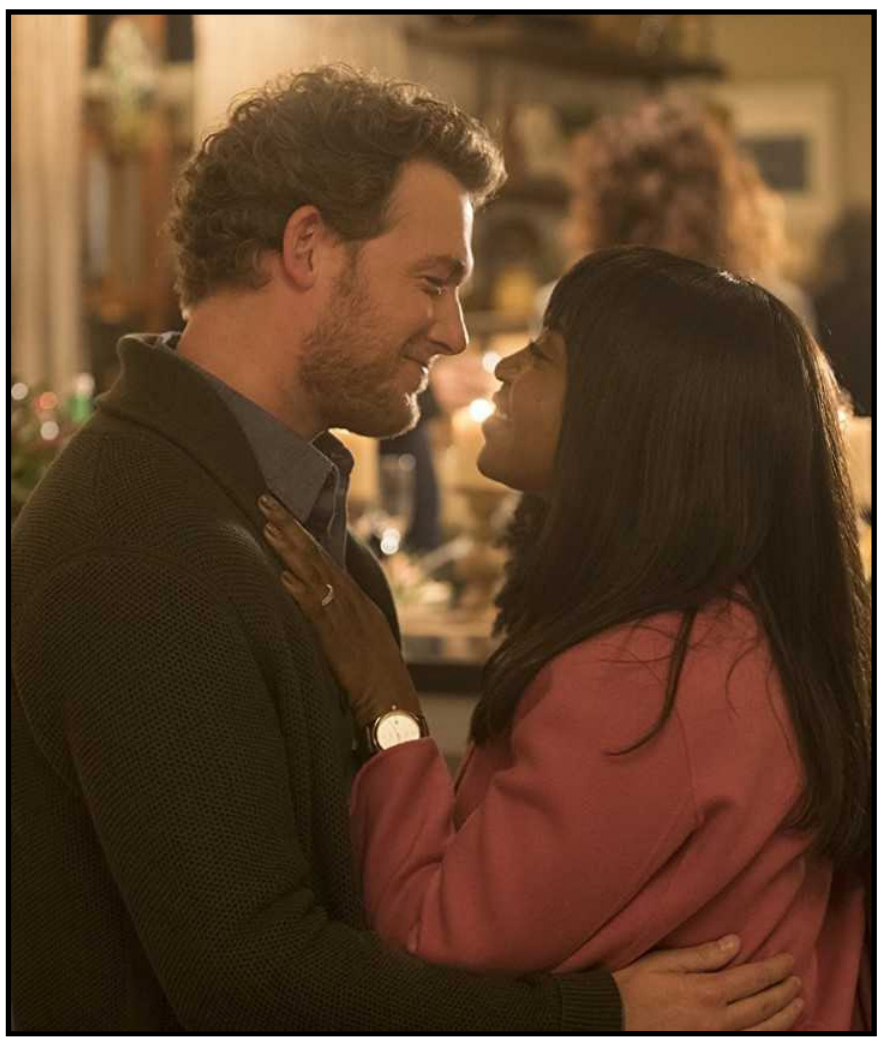


Photo by @HBO

Joe Williamson and Jerrika Hinton play husband and wife Malcom and Ashley Collins. They have a beautiful little girl named Hailey (played by Avynn Crowder Jones).

Photo by @HBO

HBO's new show "Here and Now" airs on Sundays at 9pm. It follows a multicultural family as they navigate life.

What makes this show interesting is how relevant it is today. This family is breaking stereotypes as each adopted child is not only from different countries but different continents: South America, Africa, and Asia. They all get along for coming from different backgrounds, and they even joke about it. These characters are also super relatable with all their quirks and attitudes toward life. With so many characters there's a great chance of developing that beautiful connection between character and viewer when the viewer roots the character on and only wishes the best for them.

The show doesn't seem to shy from controversial topics either. American audiences get to see different representations of sexual orientations. Ramon and his love interest Henry are out of the closet gays. Though they aren't in the first episode, viewers also get to meet genderfluid Navid (Marwan Salama).

Viewers get to see many different versions of mental illnesses and thought processes, as well. From Ramon's illusions to Greg's depression and Audrey's obsessive yet caring nature, there is something with which anyone can connect.

One of the few things that makes this show just a little difficult to follow is how fast viewers meet new characters and how often the settings and arcs change. With so many characters, many different stories get told, so it can be a challenge to keep track of all the characters and what they're intending.

Especially near the end, when viewers meet Ramon's new psychologist (Peter MacDissi), viewers learn that there is some connection between the therapist and his patient and that the doctor's family could play a key part in figuring out Ramon's hallucinations and dreams.

"Here and Now" is rated M for Mature audiences and the first episode does take advantage of the rating. There is sexuality, drug and alcohol use, and sensitive topics such as adultery, mental illness, and sexuality broached. However, for those who are looking for a contemporary mess of a new show, "Here and Now" seems to be worth a follow as the 10-episode season unfolds over the upcoming weeks.

Television Series Premiere Rating:

Arts & Entertainment

"Everything Sucks!", Especially High School

By Kristin L. Vitagliano
Contributing Writer

Photos by @EverythingSuxTV

McQuaid (Rio Mangini), Oliver (Elijah Stevenson), Tyler (Quinn Liebling) and Emaline (Sydney Sweeney) crowd around a computer, showing the start of the technological generation.

On Feb. 16, Netflix released "Everything Sucks!," a show about a group of high schoolers in 1996.

For some people, high school can be the best four years of their lives, while others can't wait for those four years to pass. It is like that now, and it was like that back in the 1990s.

Netflix's new show "Everything Sucks!" takes this idea and runs with it. Instead of setting the show here in 2018, it takes place in Boring, Oregon in 1996 when cell phones didn't exist, and computers were just being invented.

"Everything Sucks!" follows three incoming freshmen as they learn the ropes of Boring High School, making new friends and finding first loves. These three freshmen, Luke O'Neil (Jahi Di'Allo Winston), Tyler (Quinn Liebling), and McQuaid (Rio Mangini), decide to join the AV club to make friends and attempt to fit in. In AV club, Luke meets Kate Messner (Peyton Kennedy), the principal's daughter. Luke immediately develops a crush on her and decides to ask her out by making a music video for Oasis' "Wonderwall."

She, of course, says yes as the video was aired for the whole school, but upon Luke's first attempt to kiss her, Kate pulls the fire alarm in the school's theatre, destroying it in the process. This elicits the wrath of Oliver (Elijah Stevenson) and Emaline (Sydney Sweeney), the drama club's lead actors. To appease the actors, Luke and his friends suggest making a Sci-Fi Romance movie to allow the actors to do what they love while the theatre is under repairs.

All the while, the principal Ken Messner (Patch Darragh) develops a relationship with Luke's mother, Sherry O'Neil (Claudine Mboligikpelani Nako). It is both awkward and adorable as the two adults' relationship grows over mutual life experiences.

This television show is full of memories of the nineties. The students wear their hair gelled or hair sprayed and teased. Scrunchies hold ponytails in different positions on heads or hair is rolled into top knots. Jeans and fishnets cover legs while flannels and shoulder pads are repeat offenders on the students.

The technology is very nineties as well, as there were no cell phones, only landlines in homes. Video cameras can't be held with one hand because they are bulky, and they produce their content on VHS tapes, not the DVDs or digital downloads taken for granted in 2018. Newly invented personal computers take up half the desk area and are very slow as they work to pull up the World Wide Web.

Another cute remnant of the past is the use of the morning announcements the AV club produces for the school's population. News had to travel somehow when cell phones didn't exist, and back then, there was mostly word-of-mouth.

Any music lover would love the use of nineties music. Alanis Morrissette, Weezer, Oasis, The Offspring, Elton John, Tori Amos, and Deep Blue Something are just a few of the big names used and loved by the high schoolers.

Anyone who ever attended high school could find at least one of the students to whom he or she can relate. Whether it's the popular one or the shy, awkward one, many emotions of one's high school career get resurrected while watching this Netflix original. There are cliques, bullying, and weird moments in the cafeteria among other beloved high school clichés.

The high schoolers' journey to find themselves and who they are whether this means dropping out of high school to pursue other dreams or discovering first loves and maybe experiencing heartbreak along the way. This also could mean hiding who they truly believe themselves to be, especially as a lesbian couple knows that their relationship would be shamed and judged.

This ten-episode series, each episode running about 30 minutes each, is rated TV-14. There is drug use and some sexuality, as well as mild profanity. Anyone looking for a cute, lighthearted show about high schoolers finding their way can log into Netflix because "Everything Sucks!" definitely fits the bill.

Netflix Original Series Rating:

Florida Strawberry Festival

Dates: March 1- March 11

Location: 303 North Lemon St. Plant City, FL 33563

Description: Enjoy performances, parades, contests, exhibits, rides, games, and food all in honor of Florida-grown strawberries.

Cost: $10 for adults, $5 for kids ages 6-12, kids younger than 6 are free, and concert tickets are extra.

Contact: flstrawberryfestival.com or (813) 752-9194

Photo by @EverythingSuxTV

Luke O'Neil (Jahi Di'Allo Winston) and Kate Messner (Peyton Kennedy), two AV club students relate over high school woes and how boring Boring, Oregon is.

Okeechobee Music &Arts Festival

Dates: March 1- March 4

Location: Sunshine Grove, 12517 NE 91ST Ave, Okeechobee, FL 34972

Description: Camp in the wilderness and participate in workshops and yoga classes, learn from speakers, and enjoy music from special performers such as Halsey and Travis Scott

Cost: $355.32 for a General Admissions Pass

Contact: okeechobeefest.com or (234) 567-8910

Sports

Women's Lacrosse's Hot Start

By Vincent Pensabene
Sports Editor

Stop me if you heard this before, but Saint Leo is turning around another program. The Saint Leo Women's Lacrosse team has been on a tear to open their season, starting off with an impressive 3-0 record. This is coming off a season where the team won six games total and placed fifth in the Sunshine State Conference.

To open up the season, the Lions have victories over Molloy College, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, and Davenport.

"We set a goal for the season that we want to win at least 12 games. The team is really focused on that goal, so we needed a strong start to get us moving in the right direction. We only have 17 regular season games, so there is not much wiggle room on the way to the 12-win mark," coach Caitlin Hansen stated.

The team has been doing a lot to ensure they will reach the mark they have set up. The most wins by a women's lacrosse team at Saint Leo was 10, which they reached in 2014. The team has been stellar on offense, scoring a total of 54 goals during the three-game win streak. The team has been able to score early and often as the Lions have headed into halftime with a big lead.

"I knew that we had the ability to score goals. We are fast offensively and have multiple threats, but to have 10 goal leads going into halftime certainly exceeded my expectations. I also really enjoy seeing just how many people have been scoring goals each game. Nearly everyone who crosses into our attacking end has put one in the back of the net in each of the last three games," Hansen added.

Photos courtesy of Saintleolions.com

Leslie Ferguson leads the team in points and always shows her prowess as she attacks the net and scores.

The thing that separates this team from others is that no player is shooting all of their shots. In three games, there have been three players (Leslie Ferguson, Kaylah Walstad, Sabrina Sanacore) that reached double-digit point totals and 12 players that have recorded at least one point. There are returning players from last season doing a lot of things to help the team, but the freshman presence is being felt as well.

"The veteran-like play of freshman Sarah Pierson between the 30s has been the biggest thing of note for me this early in the season. We knew that she would be strong on draw controls, but her groundballs and caused turnovers in the midfield on top of her draws have given us so many possessions. You cannot score without the ball, and Sarah comes up with the ball a lot."

Pierson is currently leading the team with 14 groundballs and is giving the team extra opportunities to score, which the team is taking advantage of.

Even with all the focus on the offense, the defense has been incredible, only giving up double-digit goals once this season, which is something the team sees just as important to their scoring outbursts.

"Our offense is putting up big numbers, but I think our defensive unit has actually been the real story early on. Our goal is to hold opposing teams to 10 goals or less, and we have done that each game. We have seen great work in the cage from both Erin Davis and Becca Halley, and we have played strong D in both our man-to-man and zone, which I know will prepare us for our strong conference schedule."

The team has seen recent success after a few seasons where the Lions did not look or feel as competitive as they do this season. Sometimes it takes a shakeup for a team to gel or just the chemistry to be right. This women's lacrosse team seems to click, and it is clear to see.

"I really enjoy coaching this team. I do not think we have struggled with 'buying in' to my coaching," Hansen said. "I feel the team has been open to the change and learning new/different things. If anything, the difficulty has been for the players to truly recognize and embrace their own individual talents and go all out. We are growing more confident each game though, and I think it's only a matter of time before we really break out."

Make sure to go and check out the Lions when they return for a four-game home stand starting March 7.

The 2018 Women's Lacrosse team looks to get back to the winning ways under the new coaching staff. They seem to be off to the right start.

Upcoming Games
Week Ending
3/2/18 - 3/8/18

Men's Tennis
3/5- vs Southern Indiana 3:00 p.m.
3/6- vs Hillsdale 3:00 p.m.

Track
3/2- @ Tampa 3:00 p.m.

Men's Baseball
3/2- vs Barry 6:00 p.m.
3/3- vs Barry (DH) 1:00/ 4:00 p.m.
3/6- vs Tiffin (DH) 3:00 p.m./ 6:00 p.m.

Women's Softball
3/2- @ Embry-Riddle 7:00 p.m.
3/3- @ Embry-Riddle (DH) 1:00 p.m./ 3:00 p.m.
3/6- vs Cedarville (Clearmont, Fla.) 11:30 a.m.
3/6- vs Ashland (Clearmont, Fla.) 2:00 p.m.
3/7- vs Tiffin (DH) 5:00/ 7:00 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse
3/3- @ #11 Mount Olive (Mount Olive, N.C.) 12:00 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse
3/2- @ Belmont Abbey (Belmont, N.C.) 4:00 p.m.
3/4- @ Lenoir-Rhyne (Hickory, N.C.) 12:00 p.m.
3/7- vs Tusculum 4:00 p.m.

Women's Golf
3/5- Day 1 of Rollins Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational
3/6- Day 2 of Rollins Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational

Women's Tennis
3/3- vs Flagler 10:00 a.m.
3/7- vs Rollins 3:00 p.m.
3/8- vs Saginaw Valley State 3:00 p.m.